

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44*bis*)

Applicant's or agent's file reference IGT1P032X2WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/US2005/024298	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 07 July 2005 (07.07.2005)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 07 July 2004 (07.07.2004)
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237		
Applicant IGT		

1.	This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 <i>bis</i> .1(a).																								
2.	<p>This REPORT consists of a total of 8 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.</p>																								
3.	<p>This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 30%;">Box No. I</td> <td style="width: 60%;">Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II</td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III</td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV</td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V</td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI</td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII</td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII</td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application																							
4.	The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44 <i>bis</i> .3(c) and 93 <i>bis</i> .1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44 <i>bis</i> .2).																								

<p style="text-align: center;">The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland</p> <p>Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70</p>	<p>Date of issuance of this report 09 January 2007 (09.01.2007)</p> <p>Authorized officer Philippe Becamel</p> <p>e-mail: pt12@wipo.int</p>
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

REC'D 19 APR 2006

WIPO

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From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/US2005/024298

International filing date (day/month/year)
07.07.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
07.07.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
G07F17/32

Applicant
IGT

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☒ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☒ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2005/024298

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/US2005/024298

Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- ☐ the entire international application,
- ☒ claims Nos. 14-17

because:

- ☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):
- ☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
- ☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
- ☒ no international search report has been established for the whole application or for said claims Nos. 14-17
- ☐ the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing does not comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions in that:
 - the written form ☐ has not been furnished
 - ☐ does not comply with the standard
 - the computer readable form ☐ has not been furnished
 - ☐ does not comply with the standard
- ☐ the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in computer readable form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-*bis* of the Administrative Instructions.
- ☐ See separate sheet for further details

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US2005/024298

Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention

1. ☒ In response to the invitation (Form PCT/ISA/206) to pay additional fees, the applicant has:
- ☐ paid additional fees.
 - ☐ paid additional fees under protest.
 - ☒ not paid additional fees.
2. ☐ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose not to invite the applicant to pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rule 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is
- ☐ complied with
 - ☒ not complied with for the following reasons:
see separate sheet
4. Consequently, this report has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:
- ☐ all parts.
 - ☒ the parts relating to claims Nos. 1-13, 18-21

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	3, 4, 6-12, 18-21
	No: Claims	1, 2, 5, 13
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-13, 18-21
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-13, 18-21
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item III.

Re Item IV.

The separate inventions/groups of inventions are:

1-13, 18-21

Tracking game activity using a portable device

14-17

Payout of award vouchers on a gaming machine

They are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept (Rule 13 PCT) for the following reasons:

Independent claims 1 and 18 disclose methods of tracking game activity using a portable transaction device, the methods comprising the steps of inputting information to the portable transaction device, transmitting information from the portable transaction device to a player tracking server and receiving data in the portable transaction device from the player tracking server. These methods address the problem of providing better service to game players.

Independent claim 14 discloses a method of providing an award ticket voucher on a gaming machine, the method comprising the steps of receiving a cash out request from a player and printing a redeemable award ticket voucher with the digital photograph of the game player. This method addresses the problem of providing secure, personalised vouchers.

Since the special technical features of tracking game activity (as defined in claims 1 and 18) and providing an award ticket voucher (as defined in claim 14) are neither the same nor corresponding and since the problems addressed by the special technical features are unrelated, there is no common inventive idea linking claims 1 and 18 with claim 14.

Consequently, the requirement of unity of invention is not fulfilled.

Re Item V.

1. The following documents are cited in the search report; the numbering will be adhered to during the rest of the procedure:

D1: WO 03/084625 A (IGT) 16 October 2003 (2003-10-16)
D2: US 2003/148812 A1 (PAULSEN CRAIG A ET AL) 7 August 2003 (2003-08-07)
D3: US-B1-6 682 421 (ROWE RICHARD E ET AL) 27 January 2004 (2004-01-27)
D4: WO 2004/024268 A (IGT) 25 March 2004 (2004-03-25)

2. The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT, for the following reasons:
 - 2.1. Document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) a method of tracking game activity using a portable transaction device (cf. page 2, lines 7-8), the method comprising receiving in the portable device a request to enter player characterization information (cf. page 2, lines 18-20); generating a game service interface on the portable transaction device for inputting the player characterization information (cf. page 3, lines 1-3); inputting player characterization information to the portable transaction device (cf. page 2, lines 21-25); transmitting said player characterization information from said portable transaction device to a player tracking server (cf. page 2, lines 25-26) over a wireless communication link (72); and receiving a confirmation from the player tracking server via the wireless communication link (72) that a player information file including the player characterization information has been updated (cf. page 3, lines 8-12).

Consequently, the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new.

3. The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 18 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article

33(3) PCT, for the following reasons:

Document D1 discloses a method of tracking game activity using a portable transaction device (cf. page 2, lines 7-8), the method comprising receiving in the portable device a request to rate a player (cf. page 2, lines 18-20); inputting player identification information to the portable transaction device (cf. page 2, lines 21-25); transmitting said player identification information from said portable transaction device to a player tracking server (cf. page 2, lines 25-26) over a wireless communication link (72); and receiving a confirmation from the player tracking server via the wireless communication link (72) that a player rating file including has been opened for the identified player (cf. page 2, lines 27-32).

The subject-matter of claim 18 therefore differs from this known tracking method in that the portable transaction device additionally receives player notification information from the player tracking server.

The addition of information to messages sent from the player tracking server to the portable transaction device does not appear to solve a technical problem nor does it require a technical solution going beyond the banal. Consequently, the distinguishing feature of claim 18 over the prior art does not contribute to overcome an inventive step. Besides, it is generally known to provide "notification" information to players (see for example document D4, abstract).

4. Dependent claims 2-13 and 19-21 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).